CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

Council of the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science

Minutes of Meeting 94-7

held

Friday, October 21, 1994 at 2:00 p.m. in H-769

Present: Dr. D.J. Taddeo (Chair); Dr. V.S. Alagar; Dr. J. Drolet; Mr. M. El-Karmalawy (Graduate Rep.); Dr. D. Feldman; Dr. R. Guy; Prof. F.D. Hamblin; Dr. A. Hanna; Dr. B.S. Haroun; Ms. L. Harris (Library); Dr. S. Hoa; Dr. A. Hochstein (Office of the Vice-Rector, Academic); Dr. G. Joos; Dr. T. Krepec; Dr. L. Landsberger; Dr. V.N. Latinovic; Dr. H.F. Li; Mr. M. Lodge (Undergrad. Rep.); Prof. C. Marsh; Dr. H. McQueen; Dr. O. Moselhi; Dr. T. Radhakrishnan; Mr. A. Reid (Undergrad. Rep); Dr. R. Shinghal; Dr. T. Stathopoulos; Dr. C.Y. Suen; Dr. C. Trueman; Dr. G. Turski (Secretary); Dr. G.H. Vatistas (Graduate Studies); Dr. G. Xistris

Regrets: Dr. P. Fazio; Dr. K. Ha

Visitors: Prof. B. Goldsmith; Mr. R. Martin (Office of the Registrar); Dr. D. Probst; Dr. M.N. Ramamurthy; Ms. D. Wiseman (Office of the Dean); Mr. L. Zack (Public Relations)

1. Adoption of Agenda

Motion 94-7-1 The agenda was unanimously adopted. (G. Vatistas, C. Suen)

2. Adoption of Minutes

Motion 94-7-2 The Minutes of Meeting 94-6 (September 23, 1994) were unanimously approved. (G. Vatistas, T. Stathopoulos)

3. Chair's Remarks

Referring to the September 17-18 meeting of the National Committee of Deans of Engineering and Applied Science, Dean Taddeo mentioned that the Deans took note of the increasing importance attached to professional registration by the

Canadian Engineering Accreditation Board. Dr. Taddeo explained that the length of time for which a given university's engineering programmes are accredited may be adversely affected by low professional registration among faculty members. At the extreme, whether programmes themselves are to be accredited at all, could be at issue. While professional registration has greatly increased among members of Concordia's Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science, the efforts in this direction must be not only sustained but furthered.

The Chair read to Council the letter he recently wrote to Dr. Bertrand concerning the University's new travel policy. The letter was written to the Interim Rector in accordance with the wishes expressed by Council members at the September 23 meeting. Dr. Taddeo noted that copies of the letter would be distributed at Council's November 25 meeting.

CLOSED SESSION

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END OF CLOSED SESSION

5. Undergraduate Curriculum Changes--Industrial Engineering Programme (ECFC 94-7-1)

Dr. Stathopoulos circulated a document from the Engineering and Computer Science Undergraduate Studies Committee on the modified programme in Industrial Engineering. He indicated that the extensive discussion within the ECUSC focused primarily on the academic content of that programme. In addition, concerns were raised about the large number of tutorial courses, especially at the 400 level, and how this could be problematic in terms of scheduling as well as space requirements. Dr. Stathopoulos briefly reviewed ECUSC's specific recommendations on the modified programme in Industrial Engineering.

Motion 94-7-10 That, subject to the revisions recommended by the Engineering and Computer Science Undergraduate Studies Committee, the Faculty Council approve ECFC Doc. 94-7-1 and forward it to Senate for adoption and implementation in the academic year 1995-96, and that Senate be asked to make its approval retroactive to January 1995 so that students currently enrolled in Industrial Engineering will be able to take some of the courses of the modified programme (T. Stathopoulos, F.D. Hamblin)

Dr. Li inquired whether and how the major concerns expressed by the Canadian Engineering Accreditation Board have been met in the proposed changes to the Industrial Engineering Programme. Dr. Hoa pointed to the addition of new courses as well as the provision of three new laboratories. Dr. Hoa further explained that, in order to ensure that the modified programme meets CEAB criteria for accreditation, two outside consultants--Dr. P. Wilson of the Nova Scotia Technical University and Mr. G. Turp of Centre de recherche industrielle du Québec--were invited to assess it. In their opinion the modified programme should be accredited. Dr. Hoa also noted that whereas CEAB's concerns about leadership would be addressed by the appointment of a coordinator for the

programme, the planned hiring for a position in Industrial Engineering should allay concerns about insufficient number of faculty members in the programme. In addition, and with regard to this last issue, Dr. Hoa pointed to the willingness of four professors from the Department of Decision Sciences--all with industrial engineering backgrounds--to teach in the modified programme on an adjunct basis.

Dr. Moselhi inquired about the exact number of faculty members currently directly involved in the Industrial Engineering programme, and Dr. Hoa informed him that this number stands at four.

Dr. Radhakrishnan asked about the justification of granting of a tutorial course at the 400 level to the Department of Mechanical Engineering as part of the modified programme and he further inquired about the reception of similar requests from other departments in the Faculty. Dr. Stathopoulos explained that the tutorial was granted on an exceptional basis and that significant resource implications simply do not permit the Faculty to establish this as a practice.

After noting that the course INDU 466 already exists as DESC 466, Prof. Hamblin recommended that INDU 466 should be listed with its specified prerequisites along with a note that this course cannot be taken for credit by students who have completed DESC 466. Council agreed with this recommendation.

Dr. Suen expressed the view that the modified programme in Industrial Engineering should have a greater computer science component. He also stated that the programme should reflect more the actual diversity in engineering in the industrial sector. Dr. Suen concluded his remarks by asking how the modified programme compares with Industrial Engineering programmes in other Canadian universities.

Dr. Hoa explained that in taking systems information courses as well as courses in simulation, students are in fact exposed to computers to a greater extent than the course listing leads one to believe. He also indicated that the modified programme focuses on manufacturing (as opposed to other types of industrial) engineering, so as to draw upon the strengths of its host department. In answering Dr. Suen's last question, Dr. Hoa reiterated his earlier remarks about the positive assessment of the programme made by the outside consultants Dr. Wilson and Mr. Turp.

Dr. Taddeo addressed the issue of resource implications involved in the modified Industrial Engineering programme. He indicated that the University has committed itself to providing the Faculty with an area of 400m^2 for the three new

laboratories and expressed his gratitude to Drs. Parker and Bertrand for their commitment to make that space available.

The capital costs associated with the modified programme are estimated at $198,000. The Dean indicated that the Human Factors Engineering laboratory and the Materials Handling laboratory will each require funds of $90,000. In addition, $18,000 must be allocated for the computer software for the Simulation laboratory.

The required funds will be generated in the following manner. The Department of Mechanical Engineering is committing $46,000, which is the balance of its current capital budget. In addition, the Interim Vice-Rector, Institutional Relations and Finance has agreed that an amount of $100,000 to $120,000 can be transferred from the salary budget for positions belonging to, but currently not filled by the Department. The remaining monies will come from the Dean's reserve fund. Dr. Taddeo emphasized that these arrangements are exceptional and would not be made under ordinary circumstances.

Dr. McQueen noted that the development of the Industrial Engineering programme was drastically set back by the tragic death of Dr. Saber and the subsequent sickness of Dr. Abdou. The expenditures associated with the programme would naturally appear in less dramatic light if the needed equipment was purchased over a longer period of time.

Vote: Carried unanimously

Speaking on behalf of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Dr. Hoa expressed his appreciation to Council for supporting the enhanced programme in Industrial Engineering. Dr. Hoa conveyed special thanks to Dean Taddeo and the rest of the decanal team for their efforts in this context.

6. Proposed University Code of Ethics (ECFC Doc. 94-6-1 rev.)

The Chair informed Council that the latest version of the above document was discussed at the October 7 meeting of Senate, following which it was referred back to that body's Steering Committee. Dr. Taddeo explained that the concerns raised at Senate essentially reflected those expressed at the September 23 meeting of the Faculty Council.

Dr. McQueen argued that ECFC Doc. 94-6-1 rev. should not be accepted as a code of ethics but rather as a set of ethical guidelines or principles. He explained that faculty members' behaviour is already governed in large measure by the Collective Agreement and that this will be even more so should negotiations

concerning a new Article on academic misconduct conclude satisfactorily. In addition, the Collective Agreement outlines the various judicial procedures and sanctions in cases where its provisions regarding conduct are violated; it is thus a practical document that provides concrete and specific guidance absent in the proposed Code. In Dr. McQueen's view, these are strong reasons why the Collective Agreement should override any other document that purports to deal with conduct in the academic setting.

In supporting Dr. McQueen's views, Dr. Moselhi stated that the legal force of the Collective Agreement should justify its position as a document whose precepts and sanctions should override those stated in other University documents dealing with academic and non-academic conduct. Dr. Moselhi emphasized the need to further review and consult on the proposed Code of Ethics, notwithstanding pressures put upon the University to have it soon adopted. Whatever shape a Code of Ethics finally takes, it should be brief and general, and enhanced by more specific regulations at the Faculty and unit levels.

Dr. Stathopoulos pointed to the restricted scope of the Collective Agreement (i.e., it covers only faculty members) and noted that the University wishes to issue a document whose directives would also encompass staff and students.

Motion 94-7-11

That the proposed Code of Ethics should be viewed as a set of ethical guidelines only without legal jurisdiction and that it should be amended in consistency with that purpose (H. McQueen, O.Moselhi)

Vote: Carried unanimously

7. Report of the Task Force on the Evaluation of Teaching and the Teaching Dossier (ECFC Doc. 94-6-2)

As several departments did not have the opportunity to discuss ECFC Doc. 94-6-2, it was decided that the document be tabled for discussion at the next Council meeting.

Motion 94-7-12

That ECFC Doc. 94-6-2 be tabled for discussion at the November 25 meeting of the Faculty Council (T. Stathopoulos, B.Haroun)

Vote: Carried unanimously

8. Recommendations Concerning the Implementation of the Policy on Educational Equity (ECFC Doc. 94-6-3)

Dr. Hoa stated that ECFC Doc. 94-6-2 was discussed at the last general meeting of the Department of Mechanical Engineering. He went on to explain that CUFA has apparently found certain aspects of the document objectionable and meriting further discussion within the academic units. Dr. Hoa read a motion to that effect issued by the CUFA executive. In light of this information the following was proposed.

Motion 94-7-13 That, pending the resolution of issues raised by CUFA, ECFC Doc. 94-6-3 be presently tabled for future consideration.

Vote: Carried unanimously.

9. ECS Declaration of Principles and Procedures for Research Practice--revised document

Dr. Taddeo emphasized the positive spirit in which the document has been generated. The issues raised in it are currently vigorously debated in all universities throughout Canada and Concordia's efforts to deal with them have elicited the interests of other senior administrators elsewhere.

The Dean agreed with the request from the Department of Mechanical Engineering that its policy on academic and research integrity be appended to the Research Practice document. He further expressed a wish that the document be accepted by Council as an updated draft, subsequent to which the Executive Committee would be mandated for establishing a mechanism for sharing and discussing the document with other constituencies within the University.

In Dr. McQueen's view, the document, while a product of a worthy and much need effort, is somewhat uneven. Certain sections are excellent; others, however, require further refinement and addition. For example, there should be considerable attention dedicated to clarifying graduate students' intellectual contributions. Dr. McQueen suggested that at this stage the four subcommittees should be consolidated into one working group.

While agreeing with this suggestion, Dr. Suen emphasized the need for this group to entertain input from researchers from diverse disciplines, so that different research practices are well understood. Dr. Radhakrishnan cautioned that while considerable time and effort has already been spent in generating the document, a satisfactory version of it available for public dissemination will require much additional work. Dr. Moselhi stated that he was much impressed by Dr.

McQueen's summary of the document and suggested that it be seriously considered by any committee doing further work on it.

Motion 94-7-14

That the revised draft of the Declaration of Principles and Procedures for Research Practice be accepted by Council, referred to the Chairs of the four subcommittees for reassessment and refinement, and reconsidered by Council before being publicly disseminated in its final form (T. Stathopoulos, H. Li)

10. Other

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.